

**Town Manager's Office
Town of Mansfield**

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: May 26, 2015
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

Council Business

- *Annual Town Meeting* – The Town of Mansfield held its Annual Town Meeting for Budget Consideration on May 12, 2015. The budget presented by the Council was amended to increase the Board of Education budget by \$92,400. A total of 223 residents voted in favor of the budget, as amended, and 69 residents voted in opposition. I would suggest that we continue to monitor the state budget prior to taking action to set the mill rate. The General Assembly will adjourn the current session on June 3, 2015.
- *June 10th Special Finance Committee Meeting* – The Finance Committee will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, June 10th at 6:30 PM in the Council Chamber to discuss the financial controls assessment.
- *Legislative Update:*
 - CCM and COST have been tracking S.B. 593, which would amend the workers' compensation statutes to: 1) provide wage replacement benefits for police officers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder related to exposure to crime scenes; and 2) establish a presumption for firefighters who contract certain forms cancer that the cause of the cancer is related to their service as firefighters. While CCM and COST believe the intentions of the legislation are laudable, we are concerned about the ability of municipalities to finance such a significant mandate. In other states where such legislation exists, those states have established a statewide fund to cover the cost of these benefits. The Mayor will represent the town at a press conference to be held by CCM to express the organization's concerns regarding this proposed legislation.
 - I have been invited to serve on workgroup of the legislature's MORE Commission, tasked with reviewing potential reforms to the municipal employee's retirement system (MERS). We conducted our first meeting today, with representatives from both management and labor. I will keep the Council informed of the group's activities.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *CL&P Interstate Reliability Project* – During the week of May 25, 2015, crews will be conducting restoration activities in the vicinity of Stafford Road, Highland Road, Mansfield City Road and Crane Hill Road. Weekly construction updates can be found at www.NEEWSprojects.com. Residents can also call 1-866-99NEEWS (1-866-996-3397) or email NEEWS@NU.com for more information.
- *Facilities Study* – As discussed at the Council's budget retreat, staff is preparing a request for qualifications (RFQ) to select a qualified firm to conduct a facilities needs assessment for the Town, to ascertain the present condition and needs of municipal facilities. I expect to ask the Council in June to appropriate funding for this project.
- *Mansfield Tomorrow* – The Planning and Zoning Commission has continued the public hearing on the draft Mansfield Tomorrow Plan of Conservation and Development to Monday, June 1, 2015. The earliest the hearing will start is 7:20 p.m. Written comments will continue to be accepted until the public hearing is closed.
- *Storrs Center*
 - *Live Music Wednesday's* – The Mansfield Downtown Partnership invites residents to enjoy free concerts on the Town Square this summer. Live Music Wednesday will be held each week from June 3 through July 1. The concerts will take place on the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation Pavilion on the Town Square from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair, and enjoy

the music! 2015 Live Music Wednesday Schedule: June 3: Gideon Ampeire Quartet; June 10: Jan Jungden Trio; June 17: Bruce John and the Bandaleros; June 24: The Professors of Sweet, Sweet Music; July 1: The Funky Dawgz Brass Band. For more information, please contact the Mansfield Downtown Partnership (mdp@mansfieldct.org or 860.429.2740).

- *NZTC Commuter Club* – The Town of Mansfield announces the opening of the Bike Commuter Club at the Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center. The Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center, which opened in 2014, was designed to promote various modes of transportation including bike, bus, and shared-car alternatives. The Bike Commuter Club provides access to Commuter Club members for bicycle storage and private showers and lockers from 5:00 AM to midnight. There are limited spots available due to space; interested riders can sign up for membership at the Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center (23 Royce Circle) between the hours of 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Downtown ambassadors at the front desk can assist with questions about Commuter Club membership, rates, and policies. Questions may be directed to the Town of Mansfield Department of Public Works at (860) 429-3676.
- *Status of Main Street Homes* – Twenty-two of the forty-two homes available have already been sold. The expectation is to break ground on the project this summer.
- *Town Square Ribbon-Cutting* – The Mansfield Downtown Partnership invites the community to celebrate the recent completion of Mansfield's Town Square at a ribbon cutting and dedication on Friday, May 29th at 6:00 PM. Following the ceremony, residents and visitors can enjoy a musical performance by Oh, Cassius! The event is free. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the first who on the newly completed Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation Pavilion.

Department Reports

- *Town Manager's Office*
 - *Health Insurance* – The employee benefits management team continues to monitor recent claims experience and to discuss ways to mitigate increased costs. I will arrange for a joint Finance/Personnel Committee meeting to discuss this topic.
 - *ICMA Senior Executive Institute* – As a reminder, next week I will be attending ICMA's senior executive institute held at the University of Virginia. Chief David Dagon will serve as acting Town Manager from May 29 – 31, 2015 and Assistant Town Manager Maria Capriola will serve as acting Town Manager from June 1 – 6, 2015. I greatly appreciate the Council's continued support of my professional development activities.
 - *Shared Services Agreements* – I am drafting renewal agreements between the Town and the Mansfield and Region 19 Boards of Education for shared services (e.g. financial management and information technology). The form of the agreement needs significant revision and it will take some time to complete this task. My goal is to present these to the Town Council in late June.
 - *Windham Region Transit District (WRTD) Update* – I am serving as the vice-chair of the WRTD Board of Directors and am pleased to report that the new board continues its work to stabilize the district's finances. We are making progress having contracted with First Transit to manage the organization and having hired a business manager. We are in the process of adopting a budget for FY 2015/16 and it is likely we will need an additional local match from the municipalities we serve. Most of the district's routes operate with an 83% federal/state grant and a 17% local match. I will keep the Council informed of these developments.

Upcoming Events

- *Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony* - The Town of Mansfield held its Memorial Day parade and ceremony on Monday, May 25, 2015. The event was very well-attended and included marching units from local scout groups and sports teams, Mansfield's fire department, marching bands from E. O. Smith High School and Mansfield Middle School, and state and local elected officials. We were honored to have about a dozen local veterans of all ages join in the parade. Lieutenant Colonel Paul Veilleux served as our Master of Ceremonies, Staff Sergeant Samuel Surowitz gave the main address, Pastor Ron Baker of the First Baptist Church gave the invocation and benediction, Mayor Elizabeth Paterson gave the welcoming remarks, State Representative Gregory Haddad presented the Governor's Proclamation, and scouts from various local troops recited the poem "Peace" by

Amanda Bradley. I would like to thank all involved, as well as Sara-Ann Bourque in my office for coordinating this special commemoration for our community.

- *Storrs Farmers Market* – Storrs Farmers Market is in its 21st season. The Market is open from 3:00 to 6:00PM every Saturday from May 2 through November 22 on the front lawn of the Beck Municipal Building (Town Hall). Everything sold at Storrs Farmers Market is grown or produced in Connecticut. Visit www.storrsfarmersmarket.org for more information and to sign up for weekly emails from the Market.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Committee on Committees Special Meeting, May 29, 2015, 8:10 AM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Inland-Wetland Agenda & Planning and Zoning Commission, June 1, 2015, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee, June 2, 2015, 6:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, June 3, 2015, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, June 4, 2015, 4:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Agriculture Committee, June 6, 2015, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Housing Code Board of Appeals, June 8, 2015, 5:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Finance Committee, June 8, 2015, 6:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, June 8, 2015, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*